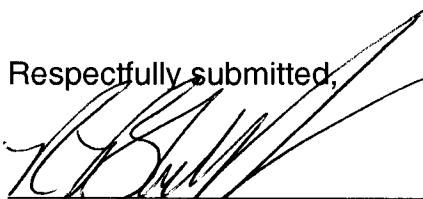


The assignee, NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY, qualifies for small entity status for the subject patent, on the basis of 37 C.F.R. 1.27(a)(1). Therefore, the instant Assertion of Small Entity Status by writing is being made in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.27(c)(1).

The undersigned is an attorney registered with the U.S. Patent Office.

This assertion of small entity status is being made, in particular, in advance of the maintenance fee due July 18, 2012.

Respectfully submitted,



R. Blake Johnston
Reg. No. 41,097

Dated: August 21, 2008

DLA PIPER US LLP
PATENT GROUP
203 N. LaSalle St., Suite 1900
Chicago, Illinois 60601
Phone: (312) 368-4000
Fax: (312) 236-7516